

Reply to Office Action of July 14, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A dishwasher, comprising:

a sump, ~~installed~~provided under a washtub, ~~for collecting water and configured to collect washing fluid therein;~~

a drain pump, ~~installed at one~~provided at a side of the sump, ~~for pumping to a pressure and thereby draining the~~ and configured to pump washing fluid collected in the sump;

a drain passage ~~having one end communicating with a first end in communication with the drain pump;~~ and a second end in communication with a backflow-preventing passage installed so as to have a peak point of, wherein the backflow-preventing passage includes an inverted U-shape piece shaped portion, whose entrance end wherein an inlet of the backflow-preventing passage is connected to the other second end of the drain passage so as to prevent the water washing fluid from flowing backward, and wherein an upper portion of the backflow-preventing passage is disposed higher than the sump;

a drain hose having ~~one an inlet~~ end connected to ~~the other end~~ an outlet of the backflow-preventing passage; and

a check valve, ~~installed at the entrance~~provided proximate the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage, ~~for opening and closing the entrance end and configured to open and close the inlet~~ of the backflow-preventing passage ~~according to~~based on an operation status of the drain pump.

2. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the check valve ~~opens the entrance end~~ is configured to open the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage when the drain pump is actuated, and ~~closes the entrance end~~ to close the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage when the drain pump is not actuated.

3. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 2, the check valve comprising:

a sealing member[[,]] which is hinged with respect to an inner surface of the backflow-preventing passage, ~~for closing the entrance~~ wherein the sealing member is configured to close the inlet of the backflow-preventing passage; and

a support member having a predetermined elasticity, ~~installed~~ provided between the sealing member and a predetermined point of the inner ~~side~~ surface of the backflow-preventing passage, wherein the support member is configured to receive and elastically support a distal end of the sealing member when the check valve is opened.

4. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, further comprising an annular rib ~~for receiving~~ configured to receive the sealing member upon closing, wherein the annular rib ~~protruding inwardly from a~~ protrudes inward from an inner perimeter surface of the ~~entrance~~ inlet of the backflow-preventing passage.

5. (Original) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein the sealing member is formed of a rubber-based material.

6. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 3, wherein the support member ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a spring configured to bias ~~pushing~~ the sealing member towards a position where it closes ~~upon closing the entrance inlet~~ of the backflow-preventing passage, wherein the spring ~~linking is configured to link~~ the sealing member to the predetermined point of the inner surface of the backflow-preventing passage, and ~~being to be controlled according~~ the based on a pressure of ~~the~~ water flowing in the backflow-preventing passage.

7. (Currently Amended) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 6, wherein the spring ~~pushes~~ is configured to push the sealing member to close the ~~entrance inlet~~ of the backflow-preventing passage~~[[,]]~~ if the pressure of ~~the water~~ washing fluid flowing in the backflow-preventing passage drops below a predetermined value.

8. (Original) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backflow-preventing passage is partitioned at one side of a dry air intake passage through which external air is drawn for drying.

9. (New) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the backflow-preventing passage comprises:

a first passage which extends between the second end of the drain passage and an inlet of the inverted U-shaped portion;

a second passage which extends between an outlet of the inverted U-shaped portion and the inlet end of the drain hose.

10. (New) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first and second passages are each oriented substantially vertically.

11. (New) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 9, wherein the check valve is provided within the first passage.

12. (New) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 11, wherein, when the check valve is closed, the backflow-preventing passage is configured such that residual washing fluid contained within the second passage drains out through the drain hose.

13. (New) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 12, wherein when the check valve is closed, the backflow-preventing passage is configured such that residual washing fluid is contained within the first passage.

14. (New) The dishwasher as claimed in claim 13, wherein, when the check valve is closed, the backflow-preventing passage is configured to drain residual washing fluid contained within the drain passage into the sump.

15. (New) A dishwasher, comprising:

a sump configured to collect washing fluid of the dishwasher;

a drain pump configured to pump washing fluid out of the sump;

a drain passage having a first end coupled to an outlet of the pump;

a backflow-preventing device coupled to a second end of the drain passage, wherein the backflow-preventing device comprises:

a first backflow passage having an inlet end and an outlet end, and wherein the inlet end of the first backflow passage is coupled to the second end of the drain passage;

a second backflow passage having an inlet end and an outlet end; and

an inverted U-shaped portion extending between the outlet end of the first backflow passage and the inlet end of the second backflow passage;

a check valve provided proximate the inlet end of the first backflow passage and configured to control a flow of washing fluid through the first backflow passage.

16. (New) The dishwasher of claim 15, wherein the inverted u-shaped portion of the backflow-preventing device is positioned above the sump.

17. (New) The dishwasher of claim 15, wherein the check valve is configured such that the check valve is open when the pump is pumping washing fluid out of the sump and through the backflow-preventing device, and the check valve is closed when the pump is not pumping washing fluid through the backflow-preventing device.

18. (New) The dishwasher of claim 17, wherein when the check valve is closed, water is retained in the first backflow passage and water in the second backflow passage is allowed to drain out of the backflow-preventing device.

19. (New) The dishwasher of claim 15, wherein the check valve comprises a sealing member pivotally attached to an inner surface of the first backflow passage, wherein the sealing member is configured to open and close the inlet end of the first backflow passage.

20. (New) The dishwasher of claim 15, further comprising a drain hose connected to the outlet end of the second backflow passage, wherein an upper portion of the backflow preventing passage is disposed higher than the sump and the drain passage, and wherein an outlet end of the drain hose is disposed lower than the second end of the drain passage.